

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159244
ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159244

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, VE, XL

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN GROUP: VENEZUELAN CONTRIBUTION

1. WE ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED AS THE CARIBBEAN GROUP MEETING IN THE WORLD BANK ENTERS ITS FOURTH DAY THAT THERE HAS THUS FAR BEEN NO MENTION OR CONFIRMATION BY THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION OF PRESIDENT PEREZ'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY TEN PERCENT OF THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT FACILITY (CDF) CONTAINED IN PEREZ'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER OF JUNE 1, AND ALSO SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED BY THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO THE DONORS MEETING IN THE WORLD BANK ON JUNE 2. THE VENEZUELAN COMMITMENT WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE OTHERWISE FORTHCOMING STATEMENT BY MINISTER HURTADO AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP MEETING ON MONDAY, NOR HAS IT BEEN MENTIONED SINCE ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 159244

NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES.

2. WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE OF THE GOV TO CONFIRM ITS INTENTIONS IN THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING. IT IS POSSIBLE THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION IS AWAITING THE LAST SESSION ON SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 24, AFTER RECIPIENTS

HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO APPROPRIATE SELF-HELP MEASURES BEFORE ANNOUNCING THE VENEZUELAN CONTRIBUTION. THERE WERE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT HURTADO HAD SIMPLY BEEN AWAY FROM HIS OFFICE SO LONG THAT HE WAS UNCLEAR ON THE LATEST POSITION AND THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS IN THE COURSE OF HIS STATEMENT. HOWEVER, NEITHER OF THESE EXPLANATIONS IS PERSUASIVE. WE FEAR THAT THE FAILURE OF THE VENEZUELAN TO BACK US UP IN THE COURSE OF THIS MEETING MAY JEOPARDIZE THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP.

3. ACTION: YOU SHOULD CONTACT GOV OFFICIALS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND URGE THEM TO CONFIRM THE VENEZUELAN COMMITMENT OF TEN PERCENT OF THE CDF REQUIREMENTS ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS NO LATER THAN THE SATURDAY CONCLUDING SESSION. REPORT REACTIONS. VANCE

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